DECLASSIFIED
Authority:
NND 947020

~~SECRET~~

FILE COPY

63A

AIR STAFF
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
(FORWARD)

REF:- SHAEF/A/TS.37153/A.2. 18 March 1945.

SUB:- Night Phenomena.

TO:- First Tactical Air Force (Prov.) APO 374, US ARMY.

1. With reference to reports forwarded from the XIIth Tactical Air Command through your Headquarters on the subject of night phenomena (foofighter), and further to this Headquarters' letter of even reference dated 11 February, a reply has now been received from the Air Ministry who say that Bomber Command crews have for some time been reporting similar phenomena.

2. The Air Ministry view is that a few of the alleged aircraft may have been Me.262's and for the rest flak rockets are suggested as the most likely explanation.

3. It is regretted that no further, or more definite, information can be given.

for the Deputy Supreme Commander,

C.M. CREIGHTON
Air Commodore,
A.C. of S., A-2.

2354

4336

SECRET

To : A/Cmdr. Grierson,
A.C. of S. A-2
Air Staff S.H.A.E.F.

From : Air Ministry, D.D.I.2.

Date : 13th March, 1945.

Ref : 111/45/DDI2.

STAEF
13 MAR 1945

6C A 37153

BALLS OF FIRE - RED.

The papers dealing with the above subject which you enclosed with your memo SHAEF Air/TS.37153/A2 dated 11th February, have been carefully examined and discussed with the various other Departments concerned.

Bomber Command crews have for some time been reporting similar phenonema. A few of the alleged aircraft may have been Me. 262 and for the rest, flak rockets are suggested as the most likely explanation.

The whole affair is still something of a mystery and the evidence is very sketchy and varied so that no definite and satisfactory explanation can yet be given.

2355 4337

E. D. M. Hopkins
Group Captain

~~SECRET~~

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE (FORWARD)
Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff A-2

61A

REF : SHAEF/AIR/S.37183/A-2 14 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Request for Photographs.

TO : HQ. 1ST US. TAC. A.F.
Attention AC of S. A-2.

Reference your letter dated 12 March asking that photos be furnished as mentioned in our Signal A.I.380 dated 4 March, this office has since been informed by HQ. IX TAC. That the pictures of "Long cylindrical objects" claimed by the 107th P.R. Squadron pilot proved to be unsuccessful.

For the Deputy Supreme Commander:

T.G. AMES.
Lt-Col. AC.
A-2 RECCE.

2356

4338

R.A.F. Form 96. **MESSAGE FORM** Signal Office File No. 58A

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MESSAGE HEADING | IN 37153 | No. of Groups GR | Office Date Stamp |
| | OUT | | |

SIGNALS OFFICE
-5 MAR 1945
SIGNALS HEADQUARTERS

(Above this line is for Signals use only)

File

FROM AIR STAFF, SHAEF. (FORWARD).

TO AIR MINISTRY, WHITEHALL.

REPEATED

| Originator's Number | Date | (Write horizontally) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A.I. 321 | 5 MARCH 1945. | ~~SECRET~~(.) | YOUR AX 222 | 4TH MARCH(.) | 5 |
| UNDERSTAND | FROM DDI2 | VISITING | HERE TODAY | THAT ALL | 10 |
| AVAILABLE | BOMB | TORPEDOES | FROM | TRIPPELWERKE | 15 |
| MOLSHEIM | HAVE ALREADY | BEEN SENT | TO HORNCHURCH(.) | DDI2 | 20 |
| WILL CHECK | FURTHER WITH | USSTAF AND | REPORT ON | RETURN TO | 25 |
| U.K. ABOUT | 8TH MARCH(.) | | | | 30 |
| | | | | | 35 |
| | | | | | 40 |
| | | | | | 45 |
| | | | | | 50 |

May be sent AS WRITTEN *(1) ~~By ANY Signal Method~~
*(2) NOT by Wireless
*(3) ~~But if liable to Interception~~ or Capture ~~SEND IN CYPHER~~

Signature [illegible]

Rank Aot/Cdr

Send in CYPHER *(1) By ANY Signal Method
*(2) NOT by Wireless

Signature — 2359

Rank

Date-Time Group 05 1700 A.

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority
~~SECRET~~
IMPORTANT

(*Strike out methods which do not apply. Below this line is for Signals use only)

| System in | Time in | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender | T.O.R. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | | 4344 | | | 051716 |

724899 WL 49887/03734 497,000 Pads 3/44 MP 51-8336

37153

ASOS

230

041432A

FROM AIR MINISTRY WHITEHALL.

TO S.H.A.E.F. (FORWARD) FOR AIR COMMODORE GRIERSON PD

HAEFM N

5 MAR 1945

A

Rwd.

11c

ABLE XRAY TWO TWO TWO FOURTH MARCH ~~SECRET~~ PD

REFERENCE MIKESUGARWILLIAM SIX DATED SECOND JANUARY ONENINEFOURFIVE FROM VCAS

TO AIR MARSHAL ROBB STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF RECOVERING BULK STOCKS OF GERMAN

BOMB TORPEDOES FROM TRIPPELWERKE MOLSHEIM AND REPLY JIG MIKE ROGER SLANT

ONE TWO TWO DATED SECOND JANUARY BULK DELIVERIES HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT YET

BEGUN PD PLEASE INVESTIGATE AS STOCKS ARE REQUIRED URGENTLY.

MR. 9871

PRIORITY IMPORTANT

2360

4345

IMPORTANT

SIGNAL 24 MAR 1945

57A

| AIR STAFF DISTRIBUTION | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACTION | | INFOR. | |
| A-2 | ✓ | A-2 | |
| A-3 | | A-3 | |
| A-4 | | A-4 | |
| S.U. | | S.U. | |
| A.G. | | A.G. | |
| | | SMG | ✓ |

IMMEDIATE

25 MAR 1945

56A

90

HAEFM — fwd

25 MAR 1945

loc. A 37/53

| AIR STAFF DISTRIBUTION | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACTION | | INFOR. | |
| A-2 | ✓ | A-2 | |
| A-3 | | A-3 | |
| A-4 | | A-4 | |
| [illegible] | | [illegible] | |
| A-6 | | A-6 | ✓ |
| | | | |
| | | | |

55A

989/21

~~KK PLEASE KK~~

~~AFF V JEZO NR ITS 21 OPOP~~

FROM: HQ IX TAC Ø511Ø2A
TO: AIR STAFF S.H.A.E.F. FORWARD

~~SECRET~~ QQY BT

REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE AI.32Ø DATED Ø41745A: PHOTOS OF LONG CYLINDRICAL OBJECTS TAKEN BY 67TH TAC/R PILOTS Ø11Ø3Ø VICINITY F-571Ø WERE UNSUCCESSFUL, FULL WRITTEN REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

QUESADA

BT Ø511Ø2A
DRP AR
AFF R .....Ø5/1132 KS AR

2361

4346

1136

R.A.F. Form 96.

# MESSAGE FORM

Signal Office File No. _____

| | | No. of Groups | Office Date Stamp |
|---|---|---|---|
| MESSAGE | IN 37153 | GR | SIGNALS OFFICE 4 MAR 1945 SIGNALS HEADQUARTERS |
| HEADING | OUT | | |

55A

(Above this line is for Signals use only)

FROM AIR STAFF S.H.A.E.F. FORWARD.

TO WHITEHALL
AIR MINISTRY. USSTAF.(M) 2nd T.A.F.(M) 1ST TAC A.F. H.Q. IXTH TAC.

REPEATED NINTH AIR FORCE. (M)

| Originator's Number | Date | (Write horizontally) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AI. 320 | 4 MARCH 1945 | FOLLOWING | RECEIVED FROM | H.Q. NINTH | 5 |
| TAC AIR COMMAND | DATED 1 MARCH | QUOTE PILOTS | REPORT FOLLOWING | AN ALUMINUM | 10 |
| COLOURED | CYLINDER | SHAPED OBJECT | COMMA ABOUT 12 | FEET LONG | 15 |
| AND 1 FOOT IN | DIAMETER WAS | OBSERVED | FLOATING IN THE | AIR AT | 20 |
| 9,000 FEET (.) | IT APPEARED | TO BE | SUSPENDED | VERTICALLY | 25 |
| WITH SMALL | FINS AND A | MAST | PROJECTING FROM | THE LOWER | 30 |
| END (.) THE | OBJECT WAS | ATTACKED AND | PARTIALLY | DEFLATED | 35 |
| COMMA A RED FLAME | RESULTED | WITHOUT SMOKE | (.) THE | CYLINDER | 40 |
| DID NOT | DISINTEGRATE | (.) PHOTO | TAKEN BY | 107 SQ. | 45 |
| OF 67 TAC/R | GROUP AT | 011030 HOURS | VIC F-5710 | UNQUOTE (.) | 50 |

May be sent AS WRITTEN *(1) By ANY Signal Method
*(2) NOT by Wireless
*(3) But if liable to Interception or Capture SEND IN CYPHER

Signature _____

Rank _____

Send in CYPHER *(1) By ANY Signal Method
*(2) NOT by Wireless

2362

Signature _____

Rank _____

Date-Time Group

Originator's Instructions Degree of Priority

IMMEDIATE

(*Strike out methods which do not apply. Below this line is for Signals use only.)

| System in | Time in | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender | T.O.R. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | – | 4347 | | | |

724899 Wt. 49887/03734 497,000 Pads 3/44 MP 51-8336

R.A.F. Form 96.

# MESSAGE FORM

Signal Office File No.

| | | No. of Groups | Office Date Stamp |
|---|---|---|---|
| MESSAGE | IN | GR | |
| HEADING | OUT | | |

(Above this line is for Signals use only)

FROM

TO

- PAGE 2 -

REPEATED

| Originator's Number | Date | (Write horizontally) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AI. | 4 MARCH | | | | 5 |
| PHOTOS TO | AIR MINISTRY | COMMA | USSTAF AND | A.C.I.U. | 10 |
| ALSO FULL | WRITTEN | REPORT BY | PILOTS | CONCERNED | 15 |
| (.) ANY | FURTHER | INSTANCES | ALSO TO | BE | 20 |
| REPORTED (.) | | | | | 25 |
| | | | | | 30 |
| | | | | | 35 |
| | | | | | 40 |
| | | 4248 | | | 45 |
| | | | | | 50 |

May be sent AS WRITTEN *(1) By ANY Signal Method
*(2) ~~NOT by Wireless~~
*(3) But if liable to Interception or ~~Capture SEND in CYPHER~~

Signature [illegible]

Rank [illegible]

Send in CYPHER *(1) By ANY Signal Method
*(2) NOT by Wireless

Signature 2363

Rank

Date-Time Group 041745A

Originator's Instructions
Degree of Priority
~~SECRET~~
IMMEDIATE

(*Strike out methods which do not apply. Below this line is for Signals use only)

| System in | Time in | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender | System out | Time out | Reader | Sender | T.O.R. |
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| | | | | | | | | | | | | Smith 187 |

724899 Wt. 69887/03734 497,000 Pads 3/44 MP 51-8336

~~SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~

# SHAEF
## STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL
# INCOMING MESSAGE

5 4A

JEUS

TOO 011947A MARCH

SHAEF A52/1
TOR 012100A MARCH
mhm 012115A MARCH

~~SECRET~~

OP PRIORITY

HAEFM A-2 fwd
-2 MAR 1945
A 34153

FROM : HQ IX TAC SIGNED QUESADA

TO : CG SHAEF MAIN ATTN A-2, CG NINTH AF ADV ATTN A-2

REF NO : NONE, 1 MARCH 1945

Pilots report the following.

An aluminum colored cylinder shaped object, about 12 ft long and 1 ft in diameter was observed floating in the air at 9,000 ft. It appeared to be suspended vertically with small fins and a mast projecting from the lower end. The object was attacked and partially deflated, a red flame resulted without smoke. The cylinder did not disintegrate.

Photo taken by 107 SQ of 67 TAC/R Group at 011030 hours vic F-5710.

ACTION : AIR STAFF

INFORMATION : G-2
SHAEF FORWARD
AG RECORDS

MB. 164/14.

| AIR STAFF DISTRIBUTION | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ACTION | | INFOR. | |
| A-2 | ✓ | A-2 | |
| A-3 | | A-3 | |
| A-4 | | A-4 | |
| S-1 | | S-1 | |
| AG | | G | ✓ |

2364 4.49

SMC IN 310 1 MAR 45 2200A AGD/wml REF NO: NONE

~~SECRET~~

COPY NO. 8

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

[redacted]:- A.D.I.(K), Air Ministry.

SECRET
DEUS 3A

To:- A/Cdr. Grierson, S.H.A.E.F.Main,
(Air Div.).
Copy to C.I.O. 2nd T.A.F.

Date:- 17th February 1945.

51A

Reference your SHAEF AIR/S.37153/A.2 dated 14th February 1945 with the attached CX report, this probably refers to "Flak Bombe" mentioned in A.D.I.(K) Report No.562/1944, paragraphs 128 and 129.

52A

SI-IAEFMAIN
21 FEB 1945
FWD
5C 37/53

S.D.Felkin,
Wing Commander.

SDF/GJ

2365
4350

AIR STAFF
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

~~SECRET~~

48A

REF: SHAEF AIR/T8.37153/A-2. 11 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Night Phenomena.

TO: Headquarters, U.S.S.T.A.F
(For attention of Chief Technical Intelligence Officer, Col. Bradley).

1. Attached are copies of papers received from the First Tac. Air Force (Prov). From the number of reports quoted in the 2nd W/Ind from the 415th Night Fighter Squadron, it would seem that there must be something more than mere imagination behind the matter, and in view of the fact that pilots and crews are becoming slightly worried by them, it is considered that everything possible should be done to get to the root of the matter.

2. Copies of the reports have been sent to the Air Ministry for their consideration, and the Scientific Investigation Division of this Headquarters (Mr. Robertson) has also been asked to consider the problem.

3. In the meantime, it is suggested that it might be as well for an Air Technical Intelligence Officer to visit the Unit concerned and obtain reports and impressions at first hand from aircrew personnel.

For the Deputy Supreme Commander,

C.M. GRIERSON,
Air Commodore,
A.C. of S., A-2,
Air Staff, SHAEF.

2402

4091

~~SECRET~~

FILE COPY

47A

AIR STAFF
SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

REF:- 37153

11 February 1945.

TO:- First Tactical Air Force (Prov.), APO 374, U.S. ARMY.

1. Reference to your 3rd Indorsement on the subject of night phenomenon originated by the 415th Night Fighter Squadron, there is no information at this Headquarters which might explain the nature and cause of the lights and other phenomena described by the pilots of this Squadron.

2. The matter is, therefore, being referred to the Air Ministry in order to find out whether any further information can be obtained from that source. It is also hoped to make arrangements for an Air Technical Intelligence Officer from USSTAF to visit the Unit concerned.

For the Deputy Supreme Commander,

C.M. GRIERSON,
Air Commodore,
A.C. of S., A-2.

2403

4392

37153 ~~SECRET~~

Please return to A2 Staff

B 051400

GAF 46A

2nd Ind. D-W-2

HEADQUARTERS XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (ADV), APO #374, U.S. Army, 4 February 1945.

SHAEF MAIN 8 FEB 1945 A 15c

TO: Commanding General, First Tactical Air Force (Prov), APO #374, U.S. Army. Attn: A/C of S, A-2.

Attention is invited to 2nd W/Ind.

for John E. Woolley
LEAVITT CORNING, JR.,
Lt. Colonel, G. S. C.,
A/C of S, A-2.

3rd Ind. D-Y-1

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROV), APO 374, U S Army, 5 February 1945.

TO: Chief Intelligence Officer, Air Staff SHAEF, APO 757.

1. Forwarded for your information.

2. This headquarters has no further information or explanation in connection with these phenomena.

3. It is believed that further investigation is warranted. Since appropriate technical personnel are not available within the First Tactical Air Force, the matter is forwarded for such further investigation as may be advisable.

C. A. Young
C. A. YOUNG,
Colonel, AC,
AC of S, A-2

1 Incl.
#1 - 1st & 2nd W/Ind, 23 Jan 45 and 30 Jan 45.

140 SHAEF MAIN AIR - 8 FEB 1945 A2 REGISTRY.

~~SECRET~~

4393

2404

307

SECRET

SECRET
TH: CG, XII TAC
Initial
Date: 16 Jan 1945

HEADQUARTERS XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND (ADV) D-C-1
Office of the A/C of S, A-2

APO 374, US Army,
16 January 1945.

SUBJECT: Night Phenomenon.

TO : Commanding General, First Tactical Air Force (Prov), APO 374, US Army. Attn: A/C of S, A-2.

1. The following is quoted from training and tactical information supplied by the 415th Night Fighter Squadron for the month of December 1944:

"We have encountered a phenomenon which we cannot explain; crews have been followed by lights that blink on and off changing colors etc. The lights come very close and fly formation with our planes. They are agitating and keep the crews on edge when they encounter them, mainly because they cannot explain them. It is requested further information be furnished on this subject, such as similar experiences of other night units".

2. Further information is requested.

Leavitt Corning Jr.

LEAVITT CORNING, JR.,
Lt. Colonel, G. S. C.,
A/C of S, A-2.

1st Ind D-B-1

HEADQUARTERS, FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE (PROV), AC of S A-2, APO 374, US Army, 20 January 1945

TO: AC of S A-2, XII Tactical Air Command, APO 374, US Army

1. There have been no instances reported as above.

2. Before an investigation can be made it will be necessary to have more complete information, such as colors of the lights, their intensity, size, duration, and at what altitudes seen; also if the lights are observed at any specific hours. Do subject lights cross Allied lines and in what direction are they seen to travel? Also, has it been noted on what part of the aircraft are they carried, i.e. wing, tail, prop; and how close do they approach our aircraft?

For the Assistant Chief of Staff A-2:

S. V. Boykin

S V BOYKIN
Major AC
Executive Officer

2405 -1- 4395

SECRET

~~S E C R E T~~

1st W/Ind. D-W-2

HEADQUARTERS XII TACTICAL AIR COMMAND, APO #374, U.S. Army, 23 January 1945.

TO: S-2, 415 Night Fighter Squadron.

Forwarded for compliance with paragraph 2 of 1st Ind.

for John E. Woolley
LEAVITT CORNING, JR.,
Lt. Colonel, G. S. C.,
A/C of S, A-2.

2nd. W/Ind.

415th. NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON, APO #374, U. S. Army, 30 January 1945.

TO: AC of S A-2 XII Tactical Air Command, APO 374, U. S. Army.

1. In compliance with paragraph 2 of 1st. Ind., the following extracts from the Sortie Reports of various pilots who have encountered the Night Phenomenon are submitted for your information.

Night of 14-15 December 1944 - "In vicinity of Erstein (V-9381) flying at 1000 ft. observed large red light at 2000 ft. going East at 18:40 hrs. Travelling at approximately 200 MPH"

Night of 16-17 December 1944 - "20 miles North of Breisach (W-0173) at 800 ft. observed 5 or 6 flashing red and green lights in "T" shape. Thought they were flak. About 10 minutes later saw the same lights much closer and behind me. We turned port and Starboard and the lights followed. They closed in to about 8 O'clock and 1000 ft. and remained in that position for several minutes and then disappeared."

Night of 22-23 December 1944 - "Patrolling at Angels 10 from Sarrebourg to Strasbourg North and South of highway. At 06:00 hrs. saw two lights coming towards A/C from the ground. Upon reaching altitude of plane, they leveled off and stayed on my tail for approximately 2 minutes. Lights appeared to be a large orange glow. After staying with A/C for approximately 2 minutes, they would peel off and turn away, fly along level for a few minutes and then go out. They appeared to be under perfect control at all times. Lights were seen somewhere in vicinity of Wagenau."

~~S E C R E T~~



Incl #1

2 nd. W/Ind., 415th. Night Fighter Squadron 30 January 1945 con't.

Night of 23-24 December 1944 - "Observed reddish colored flames at considerable distance and at approximately 10,000 ft."

Night of 23-24 December 1944 - "Approximately 10 miles South of Point X (Q6745) noticed to NE approximately 5 miles a glowing red object shooting straight up. Changed suddenly to plane view of A/C doing a wing over and going into a dive and disappearing."

Night of 26-27 December 1944 - "At 01:45 hrs. saw two yellow streaks of flame flying at same level at approximately 3000 ft. off port side. We also saw red balls of fire that stayed up for 10 seconds approximately 45 miles away. After seeing yellow streaks, made starboard vector lost altitude and streaks disappeared from view. Called GCI Blunder and asked if any E/A were in vicinity. They answered No. Instructed to return to Angels 10. We felt what was thought to be prop wash; very distinct. Noticed several groups of lights off port while patrolling in vicinity of Q-9050 and R-1556 Lights made distinct lines somewhat like arrows."

Night of 26-27 December 1944 - "While on vector 090 near V-7050 during patrol we observed airborne white lights. They were staggered evenly vertically and we could see from 1 to 4 swing at once. They appeared stationary at 10,000 ft."

Night of 26-27 December 1944 - "Observed light at same altitude while in vicinity of Worms Observer saw light come within 100 ft. Peeled off and took evasive action but light continued to follow for 5 minutes. Light then pulled up rapidly and went out of sight."

Night of 27-28 December 1944 - "While on North heading in patrol area noticed in vicinity of Q-1378 lights suspended in air moving slowly and would then disappear. Were orange in color. Lights appeared singly and in pairs. Observed these lights four or five times during period."

Night of 27-28 December 1944 - "Eight miles NE of Luneville at 19:10 hrs. saw three sets of three lights (red and white) one on starboard and one on port from 1000 ft. to 2000 ft. to rear and closing in at Angels 10. Pulled up to Angels 8 and lights went out. Called Churchman to see if there was anything in area. Received a negative reply."

Night of 30-31 December 1944 - "Saw a group of lights flying through the air 30 or 40 miles East of base while flying at Angels 9 - 10."

Night of 1-2 January 1945 - "Saw Foofighters North of Strasbourg and North of Saverne".

Night of 14-15 January 1945 - "Observed a large orange glow in sky approx. 5 ft. in diameter in vicinity of Ingweiller at 6000 ft. at 20:00 hrs."

2nd. W/Ind., 415th. Night Fighter Squadron, 30 January 1945 Con't.

Night of 29-30 January 1945 - "At about 00:10 hrs. sighted a Foofighter about half way between Weissembourg and Landau. Foofighter was off to the starboard and rear at Angels 2. Lights were amber and one was 20 - 50 ft. above the other and of about 30 seconds duration. Foofighter was about 1000 ft. away and following. The lights were about a foot in diameter. Lights disappeared when Travel 34 turned into them."

2. In every case where pilot called GCI Control and asked if there was a Bogey A/C in the area he received a negative answer.

F. B. RINGWALD,
Captain, A. C.,
Intelligence Officer.

* Foofighters is the name given these phenomenon by combat crews of this Squadron.